

Working for a Quality Education for All

Congressman Edwards believes education should primarily be a state and local responsibility, but the federal government must play an important supporting role, including providing states and local school districts the funding to achieve high standards of learning. This year, because of the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, local Independent School Districts in District 17 will receive \$45.8 million directed towards the Title I and IDEA programs.

Chet is a strong supporter of Title I programs, including rural education funding, reading programs and Advanced Placement programs. He believes in character education and supports after school programs because they can enhance a student's potential.

Last year, Congress passed the Higher Education Reauthorization Act with Chet's support. It improved rates and access to student financial assistance such as Pell grants, college work-study, and federally-insured loans, so that every hard-working student has an opportunity to attend college, regardless of his or her financial situation. With 7 colleges and universities in District 17, Chet supports legislation that will expand access to higher education to more students.

This year, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included the American Opportunity Education tax credit, providing financial assistance through a refundable tax credit for individuals seeking a college education. The money can be used for tuition and related expenses.

Congressman Edwards supported a budget resolution that increases the maximum Pell Grant award by \$619, the largest increase in the program's history, bringing the total possible award amount to \$5,350.

Congressman Edwards' top priorities for improving education include:

- Improving student financial assistance such as Pell grants, college work-study and federally-insured student loans, so that every hard-working student has an opportunity to go to college.
- Fully funding the No Child Left Behind Act, so that local school districts have the resources to meet high standards and help alleviate the heavy property tax burden on Texas homeowners.
- Increasing funding for Head Start and other early childhood education so that children can begin elementary school with basic skills.
- Supporting Title I programs, which include rural education funding, reading programs and Advanced Placement programs.
- Supporting character education and after school programs that enhance a student's potential.
- Leading the fight to protect Texas teachers' rights to collect Social Security benefits and co-sponsored legislation that would fix this unfair provision in federal law

Listed below are helpful financial aid links for students:

[Information for Students](#)

[Federal Student Aid](#)

[FAFSA Online](#)

[Full List of Grants and Other Funding Resources](#)

[Student Job Opportunities](#)

[Scholarship Scams](#)

College and Financial Aid Information

Federal Resources

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION](#)

The U.S. Department of Education has a wealth of information that can help both students and graduates. Please click on the link above to visit their website.

[FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION](#)

An introductory publication for students not yet enrolled in a postsecondary school, provides general information about the U.S. Department of Education's federal student financial aid programs and how to apply for them.

[STUDENTS.GOV](#)

Portal site marking a cooperative effort between federal agencies, students, and other parts of the higher education community, under the leadership of the U.S. Department of Education.

[TAX INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS](#)

Find out what is available and how to qualify for federal tax relief.

[INFORMATION ON SCHOLARSHIPS SCAMS](#)

The warning signs, where you can get help, and other useful information provided by the Federal Trade Commission.

[NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM](#)

Look up and find out the status of your student loan and PELL grant.

[PAYING BACK YOUR FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN](#)

How to determine if you are eligible for a loan deferment or cancellation.

[OFSA OMBUDSMAN](#)

For Information on the Resolution of Federal Student Loan Disputes.

[CAREER INFORMATION](#)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - Connect to the Occupational Outlook Handbook to find career information. The Handbook describes what workers do on the job, working conditions, the training and education needed, earnings, and expected job prospects for a wide range of occupations.

[STUDENT VISAS](#)

U.S. Department of Justice - Find out how you can apply for a visa to study in the United States.

Additional Resources

[THE COLLEGE BOARD](#)

Includes information on College Board tests, applying for college online, and paying for college.

[FINAID](#)

This award-winning site has grown into one of the most comprehensive annotated collections of information about student financial aid on the web.

[FINAID! FINANCIAL AID CALCULATORS](#)

Calculators to help you project college costs, budget your savings, and estimate your financial need.

[FASTWEB](#)

Free on-line search service for grants, loans, and scholarships.

Any thoughts? Comments? Questions? Let us know what you [think](#).

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